

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Before this Amendment, claims 1-27 were present for examination. After entry of this amendment, claims 4, 5, 11, 17-20 and 24-26 remain present for examination. The remaining claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Specification Issues

The Office Action objected to the specification because of an informality in the continuity data on page 1 of the application. The specification has been amended to overcome the informality.

Double Patenting Issues

Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 12, 13, 21, 22 and 27 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 12, 13, 13, 25, 1, 30 and 32, respectively, of US Patent No. 6,701,985. These claims have been cancelled. Therefore, the double-patenting rejection is moot and no terminal disclaimer is being submitted.

§ 102 Rejections Issues

Claims 1, 12, 13, 21, 22, 23 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 1,519,971 to Hale ("Hale").

Claims 1, 2, 3, 12, 14-16, 21-23 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 1,233,462 to Frommann ("Frommann").

The above-mentioned claims have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is moot. The Applicant reserves the right to present the cancelled claims at a later date.

Allowable Subject Matter

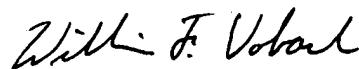
Claims 4, 5, 11, 17-20 and 24-26 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the nonstatutory double patenting rejections set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. These claims have been rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, these claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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